[15th December 1954

Death of one Sri Chinna Thevar in a car accident.

* 346 *Q.*—Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. Mookkiah Thevar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Sri Chinna Thevar, a poor coolie of Othakadai, Madurai City, on 22nd January 1954, was crushed down and killed by the pleasure car No. MDU. 3089 near Railway Colony Municipal School, Arasaradi Road;

(*b*) whether an enquiry was made; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) As there was no evidence to show that the car was driven rashly or negligently the case was treated as an accident."

Proposal to amend the Village Panchayats Act.

* 347 *Q.*—

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar is not in his place. The question and answer will be printed in the official proceedings."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have formulated any proposals to amend the Village Panchayats Act; and

(*b*) if so, the special features of the proposed amendments?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The proposals have not yet taken a definite shape."

Death of a prisoner in police custody at Karaikudi.

* 348 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a remanded prisoner named Sachidananda Vaidyar was found dead while he was in police custody in Karaikudi on 24th October 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the death?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) An enquiry under section 176, Criminal Procedure Code, was made by the Executive First-class Magistrate, Devakottai. This enquiry has revealed that death was due to natural causes."